

September 11, 2017

**Topic: Status of Hurricane Harvey Response at the US Oil Recovery Site, Pasadena, Texas**  
**Background:**

- The Site consists of two separate properties which are located in Pasadena, Texas, north of Highway 225. USOR operations at the 400 N. Richey Street property included receipt of municipal and industrial wastewater, characteristically hazardous waste, used oil and oily sludges, as well as municipal solid waste. Its affiliate, MCC Recycling (MCC), conducted associated operations at the 200 N. Richey Street property, which was a former sewage treatment plant owned by the City of Pasadena from approximately 1945 until it was acquired by USOR in January 2009.
- As part of the initial response actions, the EPA took steps to contain off-site migration, mitigate the threat to the public and to Vince Bayou, and stabilize the Site in July 2010, November 2010, and January 2011. As part of those efforts, contaminated storm water and hazardous sludges were transported off-site.
- Pursuant to an AOC dated August 25, 2011, the EPA has continued to overseeing subsequent Site stabilization activities performed by the PRP Group. The PRP Group obtained a Court-appointed Receiver with legal custody and control over the Site. The Receiver's role is to assist the Group in its performance of the EPA- approved actions at the Site.
- PRPs signed Order in 2015 to conduct the Remedial Investigation at a portion of the Site. Negotiations are on-going for the wastewater treatment plant portion of the Site.
- The current investigation activities started in May 2016, and includes soil, sediment and groundwater investigations.
- The Record of Decision is currently scheduled for 2021.

**Issues: Response to Hurricane Harvey**

- The responsible party mobilized to the Site as soon as the floodwaters receded and began operations to remove excess storm water from open tanks from the former waste water treatment plan. The water is removed via vacuum truck and taken off-site for disposal. Sampling has been conducted to characterize the storm water, and soil samples have been collected around the tanks. Fencing has been repaired and equipment repairs have been conducted to ensure site stability. EPA has conducted site inspections and provides oversight of the response actions.

**Recommendations:**

- Continue oversight of response operations by the responsible party.
- Transition to normal site operations when response is complete, resume site investigation.